

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

RESOLUTION NO. 70-100

IN THE MATTER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE OCEAN DISPOSAL OF WASTES AFFECTING THE
WATERS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

WHEREAS THIS REGIONAL BOARD HAS CONSIDERED

A regular meeting was held by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on December 22, 1970, in San Francisco, California, to consider the adoption of waste discharge requirements for the ocean disposal of wastes affecting the waters of the San Francisco Bay Region. Due notice of the meeting was given to all interested persons and agencies known to the Board. Appearances were made and information was presented by or on behalf of the following:

California State Department of Fish and Game
Standard Oil Company of California
United States Steel Corporation
United States Navy
United States Corps of Engineers
Oakland Scavenger Company
National Cannery Association
Sierra Club

In addition to oral presentations at the meeting, written reports were received from the staff on November 4 and on December 1, 1970.

The Board finds and concludes as follows:

I. HISTORY

A. Findings

The San Francisco Bay Area crab fishery has declined drastically in the past ten years. The State Department of Fish and Game reports that the crab larvae exist in planktonic forms for about 110 days, from January to June, of each year and are highly vulnerable to toxic wastes.

Since 1960, Oakland Scavenger Company annually has discharged about 22,000 tons of wastes from fruit and vegetable canneries in Emeryville, Oakland, and Hayward into the ocean, at least 20 miles offshore, between July and October.

Since June of 1966, Standard Oil Company of California has discharged about 45 million gallons per year of chemical wastes from the Richmond Refinery into the ocean at least five miles offshore.

Since 1948, United States Steel Corporation has discharged about ten million gallons per year of spent steel pickling acid into the ocean about 14 miles southwest from the Golden Gate and about nine miles offshore.

During the period 1946 through 1968, licensees regulated by the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission put about 44,563 containers of radioactive wastes into the ocean about 16 miles southwest of the Farallon Islands.

During 1968-69, the U. S. Navy placed 510 tons of munitions in a designated explosive dumping area about 16 miles west of the Farallon Islands. Other designated explosive dumping areas are 30, 45, 95, and 110 miles west or southwest from the Farallon Islands.

The U. S. Corps of Engineers discharges about 600,000 cubic yards of dredging spoil from the main ship channel per year into the ocean about seven miles offshore and south of the offshore end of the main ship channel leading to San Francisco Bay.

This Regional Board adopted its Ocean Water Quality Control Policy on May 18, 1967, which stated its intent to protect the following beneficial water uses of the Pacific Ocean in the vicinity of the disposal areas:

- a. Hatchery and nursery ground for a wide variety of important fish and aquatic invertebrates
- b. Commercial and sport fishing
- c. Pleasure boating
- d. Navigation
- e. Esthetic enjoyment.

The State Department of Fish and Game has recommended the cessation of all industrial waste discharges to ocean waters from barges and other vessels used for this purpose; that future ocean disposal operations should have the same requirements as those applied to surface waste streams entering San Francisco Bay; and that in addition to the recommended waste stream requirements, adequate studies must be made prior to ocean disposal.

B. Conclusions

Standard Oil Company of California and United States Steel Corporation discharge waste having acute toxicity to the Gulf of the Farallones.

The discharge of wastes by Oakland Scavenger Company occurs during the period when crab larvae are not present in the Gulf of the Farallones.

Nuclear wastes and munitions have been placed in regulated areas beyond the Gulf of the Farallones.

The dredging wastes are sediments which are discharged to the Gulf of the Farallones.

II. EFFECTS OF THE WASTES

A. Findings

The State Department of Fish and Game reports that it has not shown that ocean disposal operations are directly responsible for the decline of the market crab fishery; however, have stated that wastes because of their toxic nature are capable of damaging the market crab in its larval stage.

B. Conclusions

It would be prudent to discontinue forthwith the discharge of industrial waste from barges and vessels into the ocean where they might adversely affect the fishery in the Gulf of the Farallones.

Based on presently available data it is not known whether the discharge of these toxic wastes three miles beyond the Gulf of the Farallones would adversely affect the fishery within the Gulf of the Farallones.

There is a need to evaluate the effects of ocean disposal of dredging wastes on the beneficial uses.

III. ALTERNATE DISPOSAL PROGRAMS

A. Findings

Oakland Scavenger Company can barge its wastes to a point beyond the Gulf of the Farallones. Alternate land disposal sites within a reasonable distance of the loading point for ocean disposal do not have capacity for the cannery waste. National Cannery Association will make studies into the effect of the wastes on beneficial water uses to assist the Board in its development of requirements for continued ocean discharge.

Standard Oil Company can immediately transport its wastes at least 3 miles beyond the Gulf of the Farallones. The Company is developing a method of treatment for these wastes and estimates that treatment facilities can be in operation by December 31, 1972 and proposes to discontinue ocean disposal no later than that date.

U. S. Steel Corporation can immediately transport its waste at least 3 miles beyond the Gulf of the Farallones. The Company has agreed to terminate its waste discharge to the Ocean not later than April 30, 1971.

The nuclear and munitions wastes are not currently being discharged. Alternate methods for disposal have not been evaluated, but it is noted that most nuclear wastes are now confined to inland burial sites.

No alternate has been evaluated for dredging waste disposal.

B. Conclusions

Oakland Scavenger Company, Standard Oil Company, and U. S. Steel Corporation should terminate their discharges of wastes into the Gulf of the Farallones no later than January 1, 1971.

Standard Oil Company's ocean discharges of wastes from Richmond Refinery should be terminated no later than December 31, 1971.

U. S. Steel Corporation's ocean discharge of wastes should be terminated no later than April 30, 1971.

RESOLVED BY THIS REGIONAL BOARD

BOARD INTENT

1. Protect public health as it may be affected by this waste discharge.
2. Prevent nuisance, as defined in Section 13050(m) of the California Water Code.
3. Protect the beneficial water uses listed above.
4. Prevent discharge of wastes from this Region to any place in the Ocean in a manner that could affect the quality of the waters of the State.

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

1. The discharge of wastes from barges or vessels is prohibited into the Pacific Ocean at any point less than three (3) miles offshore from straight lines drawn from the Farallon Islands to Montara Point and to Point Reyes (Gulf of the Farallones) after December 31, 1970. This prohibition includes but is not limited to the following:

Oakland Scavenger Company

Standard Oil Company of California

United States Steel Corporation

United States Atomic Energy Commission, nor
any of its licensees

United States Navy

2. The discharge of wastes from barges or vessels to the Pacific Ocean beyond the area defined above is prohibited unless the discharger demonstrates to the satisfaction of this Board that the wastes do not have adverse effects on water quality. The effective dates of this prohibition are as follows:

New discharges	-	Immediately
U. S. Steel Corporation	-	April 30, 1971
Standard Oil Co.	-	No later than December 31, 1971 (to be determined in April, 1971).
Oakland Scavenger Co.	-	November 1, 1971
U. S. Navy and U. S. Atomic Energy Commission	-	Immediately

3. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has agreed to make studies satisfactory to the Regional Board on the effect of the dredging spoil disposal operations and alternate dredge practices on the fisheries resources of this area and to submit a preliminary report to the Regional Board by June 30, 1971 on actions taken or to be taken to eliminate adverse effects.

PROVISIONS

1. Standard Oil Company of California is required to file by April 1, 1971 a firm date by which the discharge of any of its waste to the ocean will be terminated.
2. United States Steel Corporation is required to file by April 30, 1971 a report on the termination of its waste discharge to the ocean.
3. Oakland Scavenger Company is required to file by February 15, 1971, an outline for a study into the effects of the cannery wastes upon water quality and upon protected beneficial uses.
4. United States Corps of Engineers, Navy and Atomic Energy Commission are requested to include in Environmental Statements called for by Public Law 91-190 a report on the effects of their waste discharges upon the water quality and upon protected beneficial uses and means of eliminating any adverse effects on waters within this Region.
5. This Resolution includes item numbered 1 of the attached "Reporting Requirements", dated August 28, 1970.
6. This Resolution includes items numbered 1, 3, and 5 of the attached "Notifications", dated January 6, 1970.

WILLIAM C. WEBER
Chairman

December 22, 1970

I, Fred H. Dierker, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 70-100 adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, at its regular meeting on December 22, 1970.

FRED H. DIERKER
Executive Officer
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL
BOARD, SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION